

HEARTH Overview – Implications for Programs

CCEH ATI
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Agenda

- ▶ HEARTH Act Update and Hi-Lites
 - New Activities
 - Outcome Measures
 - Program Models
- ▶ How HEARTH is/will be implemented
- ▶ A few words about Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness (FSP)
- ▶ Implications for Programs
- ▶ Recommendations

HEARTH Hi-Lites and Updates

HEARTH Act Provides Stimulus for System Change

New definitions and eligible activities allow CoCs to provide more services to prevent homelessness and incentives to rapidly move homeless people back to housing

Emphasis on outcomes enhanced under HEARTH with new, additional measures that evaluate both systemic and individual program results

- Reductions in length of time spent homeless
- Decreases in returns to homelessness
- Reductions in numbers of homeless people and those becoming homeless

Hi-Lites

- ▶ Expanded emphasis on Targeted Homeless Prevention
- ▶ New activities – focus on rapidly rehousing and reducing length of time homeless
- ▶ New Outcomes
- ▶ More funding for administrative activities – both on program and CoC level
- ▶ New opportunities with funding

Timeline

- ▶ Already has influenced NOFA in 2010
- ▶ Will officially begin in NOFA for 2011 – take effect for 2012 grants
- ▶ Changes will roll out over time
- ▶ Regulations out soon

New ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) Program

- Combination of current ESG and HPRP
 - Allocation formula is unchanged
 - No more than 60% of ESG funding can be used to support shelter activities
 - At least 40% of funds must be dedicated to prevention and rehousing activities
 - No cap on prevention funding
- \$ for \$ match required (cash or in-kind)
- Admin costs rise from 5 to 7.5%

CoC Coordination

- ▶ ESG grantees must coordinate with CoC
 - Consult on allocation of funding for eligible ESG activities
 - Must participate in HMIS
- ▶ CoCs must coordinate with ESG Grantees
 - Evaluate outcomes for ESG funded projects
 - Analyze use of ESG funds
- ▶ CoCs must coordinate with Consolidated Plans for geographic area covered

Eligible Activities – ESG

- Street outreach
- Emergency shelter activities
 - Renovation, major rehabilitation or conversion of buildings to be used as shelter
 - Essential services
- Rapid Re–housing for homeless people
 - Short/medium term rental assistance
 - Housing relocation or stabilization services
- Prevention for those at–risk of homelessness
 - Short/medium term rental assistance
 - Housing relocation or stabilization services

Eligible Activities – Continuum of Care Program

- SHP, S+C, SRO Mod become a single CoC program
 - Acquisition, rehabilitation, and construction activities the same as under SHP but match changed
 - 25% match CoC wide–cash and in–kind if documented
 - Leasing is the same – no match required
 - Rental assistance for transitional (a version of Rapid Rehousing) or permanent housing
 - ✦ Project based, sponsor based or tenant based
 - ✦ Rental assistance to preserve existing PSH
 - Operating costs same but can include service coordination.

Eligible Activities – Continuum of Care Program – 2

- Supportive services essentially same as SHP but include legal services to get entitlements
- Rehousing services to include:
 - housing search
 - mediation
 - outreach to property owners
 - credit repair, providing security or utility deposits
 - rental assistance for a final month at a location
 - assistance with moving costs or other activities that:
are effective in moving people into housing or helping them in first 6 months in PH
- Admin costs to project sponsors up to 10%

Other Program Information

Project based assistance can have a 15 year agreement, with 5 years funded out of initial grant

Leasing, operating costs, and rental assistance for permanent housing amounts increased annually in accord with changes in FMRs.

PH rental assistance, leasing and operating costs would be renewed non-competitively for a year at a time.

- Chronic Homeless now includes families
- Can serve at-risk of homelessness

Other Program Information

Chronic Homeless now includes families

Can serve at-risk of homelessness – final definitions expected soon

Programs that serve homeless families are not allowed to deny admission based on the age of children. There is one exception for TH, but only if they were able to provide comparable services for the family elsewhere, and only if the TH is implementing a best practice that requires that it accept families with children of a specific age.

How HUD is Implementing HEARTH

- ▶ Regulations
- ▶ Through the annual NOFA's (Notification of Funding Availability)
- ▶ Already Implemented
 - Requirements around children's education
 - New targets for outcomes in last year's NOFA that each program had to develop
 - Housing Stability
 - Increase/maintenance of income

CoC Required Educational Assurances

- ▶ CoC required to demonstrate that it is:
 - Collaborating with local education agencies to assist in identification of homeless families and
 - Informing homeless families and youth of their eligibility for McKinney–Vento education services
- ▶ CoC required to demonstrate that it is:
 - Considering education needs of children when families are placed in emergency or transitional shelter and
 - Placing families with children as close as possible to schools of origin

CoC Programs Required Educational Assurances

Projects serving families with children must demonstrate that their programs are:

- ▶ **Establishing policies and practices** that are consistent with the education subtitle of McKinney–Vento Act and other laws relating to education and related services to homeless people
- ▶ **Designating a staff person** to ensure that children are enrolled in school and connected to services in the community including programs such as:
 - Head Start
 - Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
 - McKinney–Vento education services.

Performance Criteria

Required Performance Criteria	High Performing Communities*
Length of time individuals and families remain homeless	ALOS Under 20 days or at least 10% below prior year
Rate of households returning to homelessness	Fewer than 5% will become homeless again within next 2 years or at least 20% below prior year
Thoroughness in reaching homeless people	Actively encouraged homeless people to participate in services; included all homeless people in HMIS
Overall reduction in numbers of homeless individuals and families	Activities have been effective in reducing homelessness
Jobs and income growth for homeless individuals and families	No person is homeless for more than 30 days – benchmarking TBD
Reducing number of individuals and families who become homeless	*Can use as much money as they want for prevention and rehousing assistance

Achieving Performance Measures

- ▶ Decrease in newly homeless
 - Prevention
 - Diversion
- ▶ Decrease length of stay
 - Rapid Rehousing
 - Reduce LOS in Shelter and TH
- ▶ Decrease returns to homelessness
 - Housing Stabilization Services
 - Connections with mainstream and community-based services
 - Eviction Prevention Services

Collaborative Applicant

- Covers geographic area – CoC
- Submits a collaborative application to HUD for CoC \$'s
- Duties
 - Design collaborative process for development of application and evaluating the outcomes of projects for which funds are awarded
 - ✦ Develop process for selecting projects for funding
 - ✦ Establish priorities for funding
 - Participate in CON Plan
 - Ensure operation of HMIS
- Need not be a legal entity
- Can receive 3% of total funds available to CoC as admin fee

Unified Funding Agency

- ▶ HUD must approve all UFAs
- ▶ All duties of collaborative applicant plus
 - Receive funds from HUD and distribute to project sponsors
 - Must require project sponsors to have appropriate financial/grant management and conduct annual audit
 - Responsible for HMIS compliance
- ▶ Can receive 6% of total funds available to CoC as admin fee
- ▶ A Collaborative Applicant could apply to become a Unified Funding Agency (UFA) or HUD could designate a Collaborative Applicant as a UFA

Selection Criteria for Funding

- Performance – as described above
- Community Plans focus on:
 - reducing homelessness
 - educational needs of children and
 - needs of all homeless sub-populations.
- CoC plan aligns with Ten Year Plan (TYP).
 - Measureable targets, timelines, funding, leadership and staff.
- Process for Prioritizing Funding – method is based on objective public criteria that consider the full range of opinions and use data for analysis

Incentives (\$\$\$\$)

- HUD Required to Provide Incentives for Strategies that are Evidence-Based and Proven to Reduce Homelessness
 - Rapid Rehousing for Families
 - PSH for Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families
- HUD can add strategies if there is research to support their efficacy.
- Communities apply for the Incentives and use the \$ however they want (within HEARTTH eligible activities)
- Amount and nature of incentives TBD

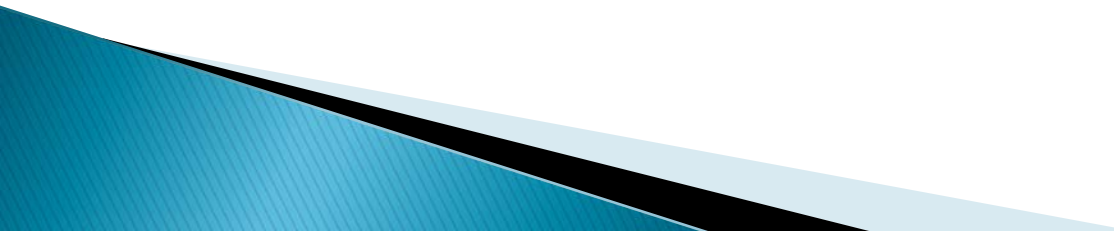
Opening Doors Federal Strategic Plan (FSP)

Introduction

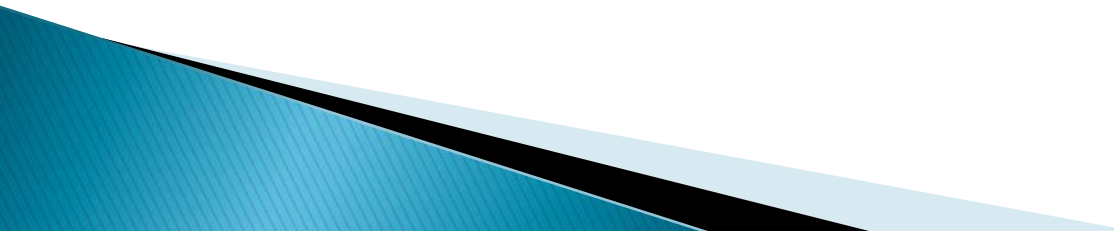
- ▶ Created by Interagency Council on the Homeless (ICH)
- ▶ 19 Agencies that Touch on Homelessness
- ▶ Huge community process to develop
- ▶ Federal Government and PRESIDENT'S Plan to End Homelessness

Vision of Federal Strategic Plan

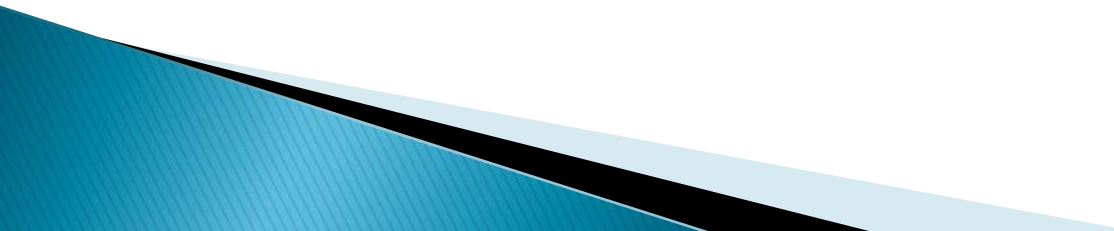
(from USICH)

- ▶ No one should experience homelessness
 - ▶ We can and will end and prevent homelessness
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Purpose of the FSP

- ▶ **Roadmap for joint action**
 - guide development of programs and budget proposals
 - measurable targets
 - agreement on priorities, strategies
 - ▶ **Achieve a shared vision of ending and preventing homelessness**
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Core Values of FSP

- ▶ homelessness is unacceptable.
 - ▶ there are no “homeless people”, but rather people who have lost their homes who deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.
 - ▶ homelessness is expensive – it’s better to invest in solutions.
 - ▶ homelessness is solvable – we have learned a lot about what works.
 - ▶ homelessness can be prevented.
 - ▶ there is strength in collaboration – and USICH can make a difference
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Goals of Federal Strategic Plan

- Finish job of ending chronic homelessness in 5 years
- Prevent and end Veteran homelessness in 5 years
- Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth and children in 10 years
- Set a path to ending all types of homelessness

Five Themes of the FSP

Theme 1: Increase Leadership, Collaboration and Civic Engagement

- Research effective models
- Expand hmis and develop common data standards
- Update and implement TYP's

Theme 2: Increase Access to Stable and Affordable Housing

- ▶ Increase service–enriched housing
- ▶ Expand supply of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- ▶ Improve access/use of PSH by prioritization and targeting
- ▶ Create protocols & incentives to help people who are stable in PSH housing to move on to affordable housing
- ▶ Assess options for more coordinated, sustainable, dependable sources of service funding in SH.

Theme 3: Increase Economic Security

- ▶ Collaborate with economic recovery and jobs programs
- ▶ Develop and disseminate best practices on helping people with homeless histories enter workforce
- ▶ Improve coordination and integration of employment programs

Theme 4: Improve Health and Stability

- ▶ Encourage co-location/coordination of housing providers with health and behavioral health
- ▶ Explore ‘medical home’ model to provide integrated medical/behavioral health
- ▶ Improve access to child and family services for early childhood development, educational stability, youth development
- ▶ Improve discharge planning
- ▶ Promote targeted outreach
- ▶ Increase jail diversion courts

Theme 5: Retool Homeless Crisis Response System

- ▶ Determine opportunities for to utilize mainstream resources for housing stabilization assistance
- ▶ Develop implementation strategies for HEARTH – especially new ESG that sustain best practices from HPRP (Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing)
- ▶ Ensure coordination with Education for Homeless Children and Youth

Implications for Programs:

What do HEARTH and FSP mean for your program and how can you be ready?

- ▶ Divert at the front door to shelter wherever possible
- ▶ Target prevention to those most likely to become homeless
- ▶ Move people rapidly into permanent housing from emergency shelter and transitional housing
- ▶ Focus on income and benefits
- ▶ Provide aftercare or access to services to stabilize once in housing

Implications for Programs

- ▶ Link with community-based (mainstream) services and amenities and natural supports
- ▶ Implement “Moving On” Programs from PSH
- ▶ Provide aftercare services when people move to new housing
- ▶ Principles and Practices of CTI (Critical Time Intervention) may be useful.

www.criticaltime.org

- ▶ Provide eviction prevention services – not just legal, earlier in the process

Recommendations

- ▶ Focus on HMIS data – get baseline on current performance
- ▶ Make sure your program data is accurate
- ▶ Focus on individual program performance on HUD indicators – movement to permanent housing, access to benefits, increases in income, permanent housing retention
- ▶ Think about whether you can provide Transition in Place with current CoC funded programs/activities

Recommendations

- ▶ Reflect on successes and challenges of HPRP
 - Both Prevention and Rapid Rehousing elements
- ▶ Consider coordinated intake
- ▶ Meet with community-based services in your area to see how they can support people once housed
- ▶ For Emergency Shelter and TH, think about exit plan from day one

Key Considerations for CoC's

- ▶ **Organizational/Administrative Structure**
 - Who is part of the CoC and who is missing? Is DOE/School system represented?
 - Are there benefits to joining with other CoC's/reconfiguring geography?
 - If you could start your CoC over from scratch, what would it look like?
 - Is there an entity that is ready to be the Collaborative Applicant?
 - Are there organizations that could & would take on the UFA role?
- ▶ **Planning Processes**
 - How aligned are your TYP and CoC? What about ESG?
 - Are you involved in the Consolidated Plan process? Do you know how to influence how the \$ is spent?
 - Do you have a plan for responding to the HEARTH draft regulations?

Key Considerations for CoC's

▶ Performance

- Is the HMIS able to accurately report on LOS, returns to homelessness, newly homeless?
- What is current performance on these indicators?
- How can you manage for and influence these outcomes?
- What adjustments should be made to the new Renewal Performance Evaluation Process to better support achievement of outcomes and meet HUD's guidelines for prioritizing funding?

▶ System Design

- Does the mix of programs in the system need to change in order to achieve performance outcomes?
- Do the programs you have and populations' needs match?
- Are there programs that are not working or could be improved/transformed?
- How will HPRP activities continue?

Thank you

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Right under the Education Subtitle of McKinney Vento

- ▶ Liaisons in every school district with responsibilities to identify homeless children, assist with enrollment and participation, refer families to Head Start and other services
- ▶ School Stability –schools must keep in original schools, unless not in best interest or not desired by parent/youth
- ▶ Transportation –schools must provide for stability and access, even crossing district lines
- ▶ Immediate Enrollment –even without records

Rights under the Education Subtitle

- ▶ Dispute process –families and youth can dispute school decisions; must be enrolled during the dispute process
- ▶ Homeless children and youth are categorically eligible for free school meals; they do not have to fill out paperwork (list from liaison or shelter director suffices)
- ▶ Homeless children and youth are categorically eligible for extra support through Title I (Education for Disadvantaged Federal program), no matter what school they attend

Special Populations

- ▶ Unaccompanied youth: a child or youth who meets the definition of homeless and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. These youth are typically fleeing abuse or neglect at home, but are not involved in the child welfare system
 - Liaisons must consider their wishes in school placement, help with disputes
- ▶ Preschool children: 51% of all children in HUD-funded shelters are under the age of 6.
 - Liaisons must ensure homeless children have access to Head Start and LEA-administered preschool programs